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[Signature]
Shahan Islam

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Yasuhiro OOTORI

Serial No.: 09/488,448

Filed: January 20, 2000

For: Resistance Force Generator For Use
in a Gaming Machine (as amended)
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Examiner: Cuevas, Pedro J.

Art Unit: 2834

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Honorable Commissioner of
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of March 27, 2002 in which the Examiner:

- a) rejected claims 1, 9 and 12 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,004,124 (Marcus);
- b) rejected claims 2-4, 7 and 11 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,565,108 (Makita);
- c) rejected Claim 5 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,611,697 (Okita);
- d) rejected Claim 6 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,267 (Hoshio); and
- e) rejected Claims 8, 10, 13 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,305,055 (Slaughter).

Based on the following amendments and remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS IN "CLEAN" FORMAT

Claims 1, 12 and 14 are amended as shown in the Appendix and in "clean" form below:

b1
1. (Twice Amended) A resistance force generator utilizing magnetism for use in a game machine for generating in accordance with game information, a resistance force corresponding to an input operation on an input operation unit of an input means that inputs information to a main unit of said game machine, comprising:

a container which accommodates a magnetic substance;

a rotation member provided inside said container and rotated based on an input operation of said operation unit and

a magnetic field generation means for a generator which generates a magnetic field inside said container in accordance with game information, thereby varying rotational resistance force that is applied from said magnetic substance to said rotation member.

b2
12. (Twice Amended) A resistance force generator utilizing magnetism for generating in accordance with game information, a resistance force corresponding to an input operation on an input operation unit of an input means information to a main unit of a game machine, comprising

a magnetic member which rotates based on the input operation of said input operation unit; and

B2
(ant)

a magnetic field generation means which generates a magnetic field toward said magnetic member in accordance with game information, thereby applying rotational resistance force to said magnetic member.

B3

14. (Amended) The resistance force generator according to claim 12, wherein said magnetic member is operationally connected with said input operation unit to rotate based on the input operation of said input operation unit; and

said magnetic field, generation means generates a magnetic field toward said magnetic member in accordance with game information, whereby the resistance force corresponding to said input operation is varied in accordance with game information.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of March 27, 2002 in which the Examiner:

- a) rejected claims 1, 9 and 12 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,004,124 (Marcus);
- b) rejected claims 2-4, 7 and 11 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,565,108 (Makita);
- c) rejected Claim 5 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,611,697 (Okita);
- d) rejected Claim 6 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,267 (Hoshio); and
- e) rejected Claims 8, 10, 13 as obvious over Marcus in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,305,055 (Slaughter).

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has asserted that claim 1 is anticipated by the Marcus patent. As demonstrated herein, this is not so.

Marcus teaches the construction of a control unit that includes electric motors. In general, electric motors actively generate rotational forces for rotating the drive shaft, but it do not provide a brake-like function to generate frictional force for resisting rotation of the drive shaft. Marcus therefore clearly teaches away from the claimed invention. Indeed, there is no disclosure, teaching or the slightest suggestion in Marcus concerning the usage of the electric motor as a brake device.

Marcus accordingly is very different from the invention recited in claim 1, as amended,
which describes the resistance force generator for use in a gaming machine comprising a rotation member
and a magnetic substance, wherein rotational resistance force is applied from the magnetic substance to
the rotation member – that is, braking force is applied from the magnetic substance to the rotation member. Claim 1 therefore can not be anticipated by Marcus et al as a matter of law.

Further, claim 12 is not anticipated by the cited references for at least the reasons set forth
above with respect to claim 1. Claim 2 to 11 and 13 depend from claim 1 and claim 14 depending
from claim 12 are likewise patentable for at least the above reasons with respect to claims 1 and 12.

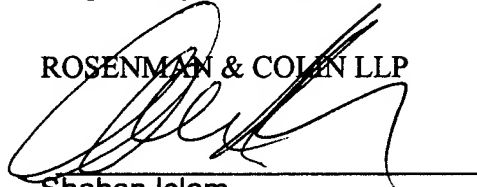
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, therefore, the subject application is now believed to be in full

condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSENMAN & COLIN LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shahhan Islam', is written over a horizontal line.

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DATE: May 28, 2002
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